

<b>Title</b>	The new National Monument at Lismullin and other recent developments on the M3
<b>Speaker</b>	Mary Deevy  Mary Deevy is a senior archaeologist with the NRA and has been project archaeologist on the M3 scheme since she started with the NRA/Meath County Council in 2001. Before that she worked in various areas of archaeology in Ireland including excavation, teaching, specialist work, research and publication, having graduated from University College Dublin with a BA in archaeology and history of art in 1992 and an MA in archaeology in 1995.
<b>Organisation</b>	National Roads Authority
<b>Road Scheme</b>	M3 Clonee to North of Kells

Earlier this year a rare monument form was discovered during archaeological excavations in advance of the M3 scheme at Lismullin, Co Meath. The NRA reported the discovery to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government as a potential new National Monument. Following consultation with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland, who agreed that it was a National Monument and that it ought to be ‘preserved by record’ (i.e. fully archaeologically excavated), the Minister directed the Authority to excavate the site and he appointed an advisory committee. This presentation will provide a brief update on ongoing archaeological work on the site, including topographic survey, geophysical survey, scientific dating and excavation, being carried out by Site Director Aidan O’Connell of Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd (ACS Ltd) and other specialists.

In order to ensure that the maximum knowledge could be extracted from the information being generated by the excavations on the M3, and in order to communicate how this was to be achieved, a Research Framework was developed and published at the beginning of the excavations on the scheme in 2005. A key element of the Research Framework is to ensure that the newly uncovered archaeological data is placed in its archaeological, palaeoenvironmental and historical context. An update on the progress of the ongoing palaeoenvironmental research, by Bermingham Archaeo-Environmental, will be presented here. Two full time archaeological researchers—Jonathan Kinsella and Eimear O’Connor—and two consultant historians—Margaret Murphy and Anne Connon—were appointed to the scheme and they will each provide a brief look at some of the results of their ongoing work.